

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01142 111151Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 /018 W

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O 111125Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0900

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, QA

SUBJ: DOHA AIRPORT PROJECT

REF: A) STATE 240349; B) STATE 190570; C) DOHA 0806

1. SUMMARY: ONE HOUR PRIOR RECEIPT REF A, WE RECEIVED CALL FROM MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS (MPW) OFFICIAL CONCERNING AIRPORT PROJECT. OFFICIAL REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING USG EMPLOYEE TO SERVE AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE FORMED TO EVALUATE DESIGNS PREPARED FOR NEW DOHA AIRPORT BY UK ARCHITECTS GIBB, PETERMULLER. COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET OCT 25; THEREFORE PROMPT ACTION NECESSARY IF WE WISH TO FURNISH MEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. MPW OFFICIAL PROVIDED BRIEF SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING AWARD OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO INDIAN FIRM IN APRIL, MOST OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE OF FROM OTHER SOURCES. ACCORDING OFFICIAL, AMIR BEGAN TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT GIBB, PETERMULLER'S DESIGN OF TERMINAL BUILDING AND COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS IN FIELD OF AIRPORT DESIGN WAS CONVENED BY AMIR'S OFFICE TO PROVIDE CRITIQUE OF PLANS. ONE AMERICAN WAS ON COMMITTEE, ARCHITECT RONALD PULLING OF WASHINGTON, D.C. AFTER SERIES OF MEETINGS, COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED IN EARLY JULY THAT GOQ CANCEL GIBB, PETERMULLER CONTRACT AND START FROM SCRATCH (REF C). NO FURTHER ACTION WAS TAKEN, HOWEVER, AND MATTER WAS ALLOWED TO REST UNTIL LAST WEEK WHEN AMIR ASKED MPW TO PUT TOGETHER SEPARATE COMMITTEE FOR RESTUDY OF DESIGN.

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PAGE 02 DOHA 01142 111151Z

3. OFFICIAL SAID THAT MPW IS TRYING TO FORM "NON PARTISAN"

COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INSTEAD OF PRIVATE ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS. HE STATED THAT BRITISH AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND AEROPORT DE PARIS WERE SENDING PLANNING EXPERTS AND NOTED THAT MINISTRY ALSO WISHES TO HAVE USG REPRESENTATIVE ON COMMITTEE. REP SHOULD BE TERMINAL BUILDINGS PLANNING EXPERT WITH ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND AND EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE FLOW, ETC. MPW HOPES TO HOLD FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25 IN DOHA. OFFICIAL SAID GOQ WILL PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR VISIT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPT CONTACT FAA OR OTHER USG AGENCY AND ADVISE ASAP IF OFFICIAL WITH NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS IS AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON MPW COMMITTEE. MPW NOTED THAT IF USG OFFICIAL CANNOT BE FOUND, MINISTRY WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE QUALIFIED PRIVATE PLANNER. OFFICIAL ASKED IF EMBASSY HAD LIST OF LEADING FIRMS IN AIRPORT DESIGN FIELD. (ASSUME FIRMS LISTED REF B WILL SUFFICE. IF USG OFFICIAL UNAVAILABLE, REQUEST DEPT PROVIDE TELEX ADDRESSES FOR THESE FIRMS. MPW WILL CONTACT DIRECTLY.) IN VIEW OF LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE, WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE BY OCT 18.

5. CONCERNING PARSONS' INTEREST IN PROJECT (REF A), FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WILL OBVIOUSLY DEPEND ON COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION AND RESULTING GOQ ACTION, IF ANY. WE ARE CHECKING ON MUFTA BIN AMAN AND WILL REPORT RESULTS.
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Message Attributes

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